

# EDITORIALS

## Groundswell of Apathy

Like most school elections in recent city history, the campaign currently in progress to elect two members of the city's board of education appears to be marked by one significant development—apathy.

Although some organized groups have made efforts to stir up an interest in some basic issues in the race, it is believed that a random survey of the school district would reveal an unforgivable lack of interest on the part of large numbers of people.

The groups and individuals who have taken the time to concern themselves with the operations of our schools are to be commended for injecting what little life there is into the election. Several persons have made pointed inquiries into the matter of classroom techniques and academic goals of the school system in Torrance—and most of the candidates have outlined their own beliefs on the matter. Still there appears no groundswell of opinion for or against the schools—only a groundswell of apathy.

It should be the duty of each of the city's 35,000-plus voters to check the candidates, their educational philosophy, and their qualifications for the job which they seek. The HERALD urges that each voter take seriously the obligation of choosing his representative at the May 20 election.

## Sounds Risky!

The Florida State Retailers Assn. is sponsoring an annual National Tax Freedom Holiday and is getting groups in other states to go along with it.

Annual Tax Freedom Day, explains the association, marks the day of the year when the average citizen has earned enough to pay his year's taxes and starts keeping his earnings. This year the date has been figured for May 13.

The idea sounds great. A reminder to citizens that they have to work four full months and nearly half way into the fifth month just to pay taxes.

Indignation should result, the sponsors of the day must figure, and taxpayers spurred to fight for a fairer share of their own dough.

But have the boys thought this thing really through? The tax collector, his attention called to the fact that the citizen keeps seven and a half months of his earnings all to himself, may think he is cheated with only \$4.50 out of every \$12 of a man's money!

Remember the old sayings, boys! When you've got your head in the lion's mouth, don't wiggle it. Let sleeping tax collectors lie! Why tip 'em off?

## Opinions of Others

It might be logical at this stage to say that if the schools were as bad as the critics painted them in the first post-Sputnik days, the U. S. would never have got a space rocket off the ground. We believe, as a matter of fact, that it has been wholesome to take a long, critical look at the U. S. education system. But we doubt if all the breast beating and hair pulling was necessary. The U. S. has been raising a pretty fair crop of scientists after all.

—Grants (N.M.) Beacon

## IN HOMETOWN AMERICA



## It All Depends—

—FROM WHICH END OF THE BOAT YOU'RE PLUMBING.



REYNOLDS KNIGHT

## High Meat Prices to Remain

Those high meat prices at your local butcher's aren't likely to come down very much for awhile.

One reason for this is that meat production is running 10 per cent behind a year ago. The other is that, recession or no, housewives are continuing to buy pork chops, steaks, roasts and hamburger even in the face of the highest prices in years.

Beef cattle growers aren't marketing as many animals these days because they're building up their herds, which are badly depleted during recent years of drought. And steers are being held longer for fattening on corn, to improve their quality and weight—and consequently their value. When these cattle start moving to slaughter later this year, prices on beef may decline moderately, the U. S. Department of Agriculture says.

Pork prices, however, probably won't drop much until fall, when the current larger pig crop is ready for market. Total meat supplies this year, says the USDA, may drop to 151 pounds per capita, from 159 pounds last year.

RECESSION ANTIDOTE—While businessmen everywhere outline various theories for combating the recession, a Long Island aircraft manufacturer has launched a head-on assault against negative thinking—at least in his neighborhood.

Recently Mundy I. Peale, president of Republic Aviation, threw open his 2½-million-square-foot Farmingdale, L.I. plant to employees, their families and neighbors, and civic leaders in 217 New York metropolitan area communities where the firm's

13,000 employees live. Some 135,000 persons came.

In addition to the customary reasons for holding an open house, Peale believes the affair (the first since 1952) emphasized Republic's faith in the future of the aircraft industry and in the economic future of Long Island.

Exhibits and demonstrations dramatized the growth of plant and property from \$500,000 to \$25,000,000 in 27 years, the firm's support of local business through some \$18½ million funneled to 640 firms on the island last year, its growing production of the Air Force's new supersonic F-105 fighter-bomber, and its vital role in helicopter and missile development.

THINGS TO COME—A combined wood filler and glazing putty repairs window sills and holds glass panes in place. For the gardener who doesn't like to stoop over there's a new garden hoe that fits on the end of a shoe. A boat made of fibrous glass folds up to become its own automobile trailer.

RESTAURANT REUNION—The nation's \$13-billion restaurant industry, like nearly all industries, is caught in a cost-price squeeze.

So when some 35,000 restaurant owners meet in Chicago this week for the 59th National Restaurant Convention, their major interest is to find ways to provide better service at lower cost. From night club owners to school cafeteria operators, they recognize the need to hold the price line in order to hold customers. One means of cost saving

they have discovered is by substituting durable melamine dinnerware for their more breakable crockery. In a recent survey, more than half of the restaurant operators estimated their annual dinnerware breakage at 10 to 30 per cent, while another 11 per cent of them said one-third or more of their dishes were broken each year.

Melamine, being exceedingly resistant to breakage and 60 per cent lighter than comparable restaurant china, cuts breakage costs sharply and eases waitresses' loads. About 35 per cent of the nation's institutional feeding now is done on melamine dinnerware.

MORE SWIMMING POOLS—The backyard swimming pool business is booming. The National Swimming Pool Institute predicts that a record 53,000 pools of all types, most of them for residential use, will be built this season. This compares with 30,500 installed last year.

Improved construction techniques and lower prices are big factors in the current boom. In the late 1920's, the average residential pool cost \$10,000 and \$15,000. Now such innovations as vinyl liners, fibrous glass and pre-cast concrete have brought the cost of the average pool down to around \$3,700, the Institute says.

The Institute warns prospective pool buyers to investigate carefully before ordering. Although most contractors are reliable and experienced, homeowners must beware of "back alley" contractors who use cheap materials and do slipshod work, and then disappear.

## AFTER HOURS by John Morley

# U.S. School System Defended

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—In a recent column, "What's Right With U. S. Science and Education," we reported that American science and education trained the men and women who made America the most envied nation on earth. We mentioned prominent Americans in various walks of life who distinguished themselves since the founding of the republic and asked the question: Who's education and science trained these men?

Readers who are critical of U. S. education replied to the effect that the distinguished citizens we referred to were educated prior to this generation when education was a good deal better. They mailed us statements of other critics of education, describing it as Communist-controlled decadent, etc., with conclusions that our school children were unable to read, write or do multiplication tables at age 10.

They referred us to the "Life Magazine" feature on education recently which implied that the average American male student majored in square dancing and cooking, while the Russian student was all wrapped up in science and the hard-core subjects. These comparisons and conclusions may sound factual to critics of U. S. education, but in our opinion most of them are exaggerated out of all proportion to the facts at our disposal.

Let's eliminate the distinguished men and women that American education trained in the past, for the benefit of this discussion. Who then, educated our present leaders—those who were in school during the past five, 10 and 15 years? Who educated our present lawyers, physicians, accountants, architects, engineers, scientists, designers, financiers, merchants, skilled workers, statesmen? Who educated our Washington officials, senators, congressmen, governors, mayors—those who are still in their 30s and 40s? Who educated the thousands of young scientists who helped to perfect and put three satellites in orbit? Who created and produced the finest automobiles, TV sets, radios, air conditioners, electrical

gadgets in our homes? Who designed and built the modern skyscrapers, bridges, freeways, airports, trains, buses? Who discovered the medicines, vaccines and produced the intricate instruments which record a missing heart throb in a second? Who taught those who save millions of lives with new modern techniques of surgery?

Whose education made it possible for many Americans to earn the money to buy cars, to travel all over the world, to enjoy so much leisure—to charcoal so many thick steaks on the backyard barbecue? Who trained the millions who can afford a private home and those who build it at less cost than anywhere on earth? Who trained the young men still in their 20s who can calculate in seconds mathematical problems which would take a dozen men a week? Who produced the IBM machines, the high octane fuels, the new jets, the new radar systems, the automatic steering in the car, the hi fi in the living room? These and thousands of other accomplishments are the result of young men and women educated and trained in recent years in the same modern schools and colleges which are criticized and condemned.

A few months ago the "Columbia Broadcasting System" went out to Alhambra High School and singled out for a telecast a few boy students who said they were enrolled in a cooking class as an elective subject. The implication conveyed on the telecast was to the effect that the majority of Alhambra high boys were taking cooking at the sacrifice of regular education. This was an unfair impression of education at Alhambra high given to a nationwide television audience.

"Life" left the impression overboard in a most unfair comparison of U. S. and Soviet education recently. "Life" left the impression that most of our students were having a "high time" in high school, with dancing, vaudeville, comic-book reading in class, etc. . . . while depicting a Russian student

cramping the hard core subjects in the USSR.

Both of these instances are an exaggeration of the facts. We happen to be familiar with the activities at Alhambra High School where we speak to their forums . . . and also with the curriculum in both U. S. and USSR schools. It is true that Russian education concentrates on the hard-core subjects and Ivan's schooling is narrowed down to physics and mathematics and science . . . but it is not accurate to give the impression that most of our students in high school are replacing their education with classes for dancing and frills. As all other areas of human activity, education has room for improvement, but the tendency of its critics is to overplay the exceptions and underplay the fundamentals.

It is well to remember that the "club activities" on the campus have been approved by school boards and trustees, who are prominent citizens in every community. They approved the athletic stadiums and exorbitant salaries for college football coaches, at the expense of classrooms and decent salaries for the "coaches" of mathematics, science and physics. In some cases they approved higher salaries for union school-bus drivers for bringing students to school than for the teachers who teach the same students all day in the same school. If education has been caught short, it is not the fault of educators . . . but the fault of we the people and parents.

Certain PTAs and parents browbeat school people by invariably insisting that their little "genius" is being imposed upon, instead of invoking some parental guidance and putting the loafer to work. It has been the lack of interest on the part of some parents for education and their failure to counsel on the choice of their children's curriculum that has influenced the reduction of hard-core subjects.

Most fathers hardly get to know their children, except on Sundays after golf. Parents for the most part condescend to Junior selecting his own courses and invariably the selection includes a generous amount of frills and frolic and the softest subjects. Schools have reduced or eliminated various "hard" courses because there were no students registering.

The same critics who deplore U. S. education are among the very same juvenile alumni who work their heads off raising thousands of dollars for a gift-Cadillac to the "professor" of football . . . with nary a thought for a gift of a second-hand Chevy to the professor of science.

## Rx FOR GOOD HEALTH

### Medical Mailbag

Question—What can be done for a 10-year-old boy who still wets the bed?—L.R.

Answer—Bed wetting (enuresis) presents a problem to child, parent, and physician. It may be of no clinical significance or an indication of serious underlying disease.

The causes of enuresis may be psychic, medical or mechanical. Psychic enuresis may result from immaturity, a desire for attention, spitefulness, etc. Medical enuresis may be caused by any acute or chronic infection, metabolic disease, such as diabetes, etc. Mechanical enuresis could result from any developmental abnormality of the urinary tract which produces obstruction, stasis (stagnation) or chronic regional irritability.

A careful urologic examination, including intravenous pyelograms (V-rays of the renal tract), can rule out medical and organic disease and permit a rational solution of the problem by child and parent, without a lurking sense of medical neglect.

Q.—What is the average age for the start of the menopause? Do many women develop menopausal symptoms at the age of 30?—S.M.

A.—Average age for onset of the menopause is approximately 47 years; 25 per cent of women, however, will reach the menopause from 45 to 47 years, while another 25 per cent will not undergo menopause until they are past 50 years of age.

As a general rule, women who do not begin menstruating until late in their teens tend to have an earlier menopause than those who begin to menstruate at 11-13 years of age.

It is extremely rare for menopausal symptoms to develop at the age of 30, and seldom before the mid-40s. Many symptoms in the 30s and early 40s are erroneously attributed to the menopause.

Q.—Is low blood pressure harmful?—U.C.

A.—No, it really is a desirable condition, unless it is extremely low due to shock or injury. If this is the case, then it may be restored to normal quickly by the administration of blood and other means.

(Presented as a public service by the Southwest Branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Assn.)

## LAW IN ACTION

### What is a Patent?

A patent gives you the right for a limited time to keep others from making, using or selling your invention without your permission. The federal government issues a patent to you if you meet certain requirements.

(1) You must have something useful—a process, a machine, an article, a material, a plant or an ornamental design. The United States will patent only means to make ideas work and will not patent ideas such as new ways to do business, a new mathematical formula or newly discovered laws of nature.

(2) You must have something new. This means you must be the first to make the invention. Before the government issues a patent, the patent office makes a search for related patents and publications to find out if the invention was known to others before you made it.

(3) You must have made an "invention." This means that there must be something unexpected about it and not obvious to others working the same art.

(4) You must apply for your patent in good time. You cannot get a patent if the invention was sold or publicly used in the United States or described in a printed publication in any

country more than one year before applying. You cannot abandon your invention and then, after someone else has made it, change your mind and get a patent. The other inventor may be regarded as "the first inventor."

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

STAR GAZER by CLAY R. POLLAN. Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.



PAIR HONORED . . . Top honors for contributions to the college went this week to Don Quackenbush and Miss Pat Fickett, who were named Emperor and Empress of El Camino College. The pair, to be honored at the annual Emperor's Ball May 23, is congratulated above by Miss Mary C. Hancock, assistant director of student personnel.